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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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USAF review completed.

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COUNTRY USSR/Austria (Soviet Zone)**DATE DISTR.** 26 May 1954

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SUBJECT VNOS Posts**NO. OF PAGES** 10**DATE OF INFORMATION****REFERENCES:****PLACE ACQUIRED**

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Organization and Activities of VNOS

1. [] a company of approximately 100 men, broken up into several detachments, was deployed along the Soviet Zone border of Austria in the spring of 1951. At that time VNOS posts were located at; Mauthausen, Ottesheim /N 48-20, E 14-10/, Untermuhl /N 48-24, E 13-58/, Lands-Hag /N 48-21, E 14-02/, Steyregg /N 48-17, E 14-22/, St. Peter /N 48-04, E 14-36/, and St. Valentin /N 48-11, E 14-32/. In 1952, this company (number or designation unknown) was reorganized into a separate battalion (otdelniy batalyon). In June 1953, after demarcation lines between the Soviet and Western Zones were eliminated, the VNOS posts located at Mauthausen, Ottesheim, Untermuhl, and Lands-Hag were deactivated.

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VNOS posts

[] active in this area

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[] were located at: Steyregg, Hellmansodt /N 48-26, E 14-18/, St. Peter, Ennsdorf /N 48-14, E 14-30/, St. Valentin, and Traiskirchen /N 48-01, E 16-19/. For pinpoint sites of these VNOS stations, see Enclosures 1, 2, 3, and 4.

2. Battalion headquarters, [] was located at either Baden /N 48-10, E 16-14/ or Traiskirchen [].

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3. Company headquarters were located at St. Peter. [redacted] the VNOS battalion was an integral part of PVO (Protivo-Vosdushnaya Oborona). VNOS Sergeant GRECHKO, Detachment Leader of Mauthausen Post, wore a badge which bore the words "PVO Specialist" ("Otllichnikh PVO"). VNOS personnel used post office [redacted] used by the 287th Guards Rifle Regiment [redacted] 25X1
4. [redacted] companies made up this separate battalion; however [redacted] there must be at least two, since the company with detachments at Steyregg, Hellmansodt, St. Peter, St. Valentin, Ennsdorf, and Traiskirchen only serviced territory under control of the 287th Regiment [redacted] along the Soviet-US Zone border. Since the 290th Guards Rifle Regiment maintained border control further south, along the Soviet-British Zone border, [redacted] there must be another VNOS company to serve that area. 25X1
5. [redacted] there was only one VNOS battalion in Austria and that it was subordinate to the Central Group of Armed Forces with headquarters at Baden. [redacted] 25X1

Personnel and Equipment of VNOS

6. Each VNOS detachment consisted of six or seven observers (nablyudatye) commanded by a sergeant. Individual posts were manned 24 hours a day by two observers who were relieved every eight hours.
7. Posts were always located on high ground. Communication between posts was by direct telephone wire. Conversations with all posts could be held simultaneously. All conversations, during alert or when reporting position of overflying aircraft, began with the call-sign "vozdukh" (air) at which time all lines were immediately cleared for contact with unit headquarters. Description of aircraft, direction of flight, height, and exact time were given as the plane passed over each post. [redacted] a transport aircraft strayed away from authorized air corridor; [redacted] Soviet jets from the vicinity of Vienna appeared on the scene within 20 minutes after the transgression was reported. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] battalion headquarters at Baden or Traiskirchen had direct radio communication with local air force units [redacted] Enclosure 57. Traiskirchen had a radio station located in the regimental compound [redacted] Enclosure 6, a [redacted] Sketch showing location and description of this station. Each VNOS post had binoculars, field telephones, and aircraft flight direction indicator [redacted] see Enclosure 67, which was operated manually by observers. This device was mounted on a raised dais. When aircraft passed by, the observer sighted along the movable arrow to determine its course. VNOS personnel were taught to recognize aircraft by motor sounds. All posts had silhouette recognition cards of US and British aircraft which were studied from time to time. 25X1

Enclosures:

1. Overlay on [redacted] Wiener Neustadt, Pinpoint Location of VNOS Post (Pt. 1) in Traiskirchen, Soviet Zone of Austria. 25X1
2. Overlay on [redacted] Enns, Pinpoint Location of VNOS Posts (Pts. 1, 2, and 3) at Ennsdorf, St. Valentin, and St. Peter in Soviet Zone of Austria. 25X1

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Enclosures (Cont'd)

3. Overlay on [redacted] Zwettl, Pinpoint
Location of VNOS Post (Pt. 1) in Steyregg, Soviet Zone of Austria. 25X1
4. Overlay on [redacted] Linz, Pinpoint
Location of VNOS Post (Pt. 1), at Hellmansodt, Soviet Zone of Austria. 25X1
5. Channels of Command, Organization, and Communication System of VNOS.
6. Regimental Compound in Traiskirchen, Austria (Motorized Infantry)
Showing Location and Description of Radio Station.
7. [redacted] Sketch of Aircraft Flight Direction Indicator (Manual) Used
by VNOS Posts in Austria. 25X1

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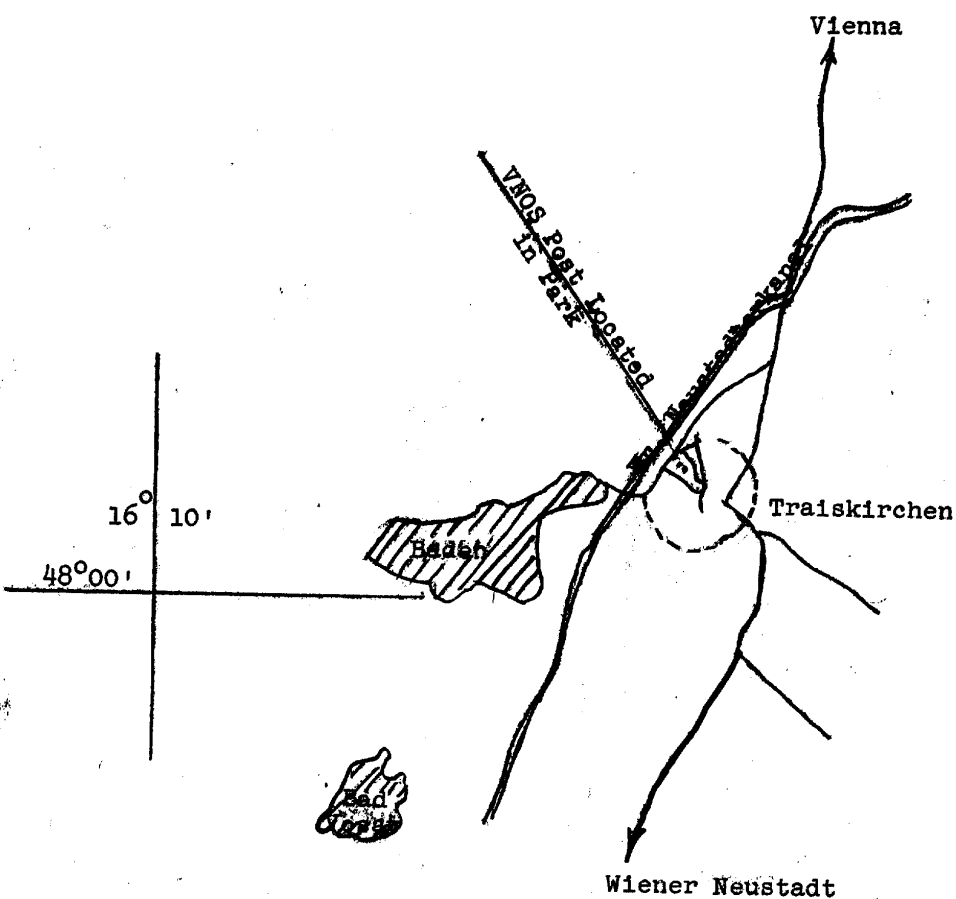
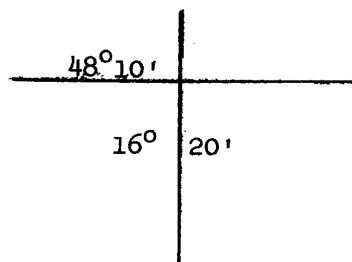
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Enclosure 1: Overlay on Wiener
Neustadt, Pinpoint Location of VNOS Post (Pt. 1) in
Traiskirchen, Soviet Zone of Austria

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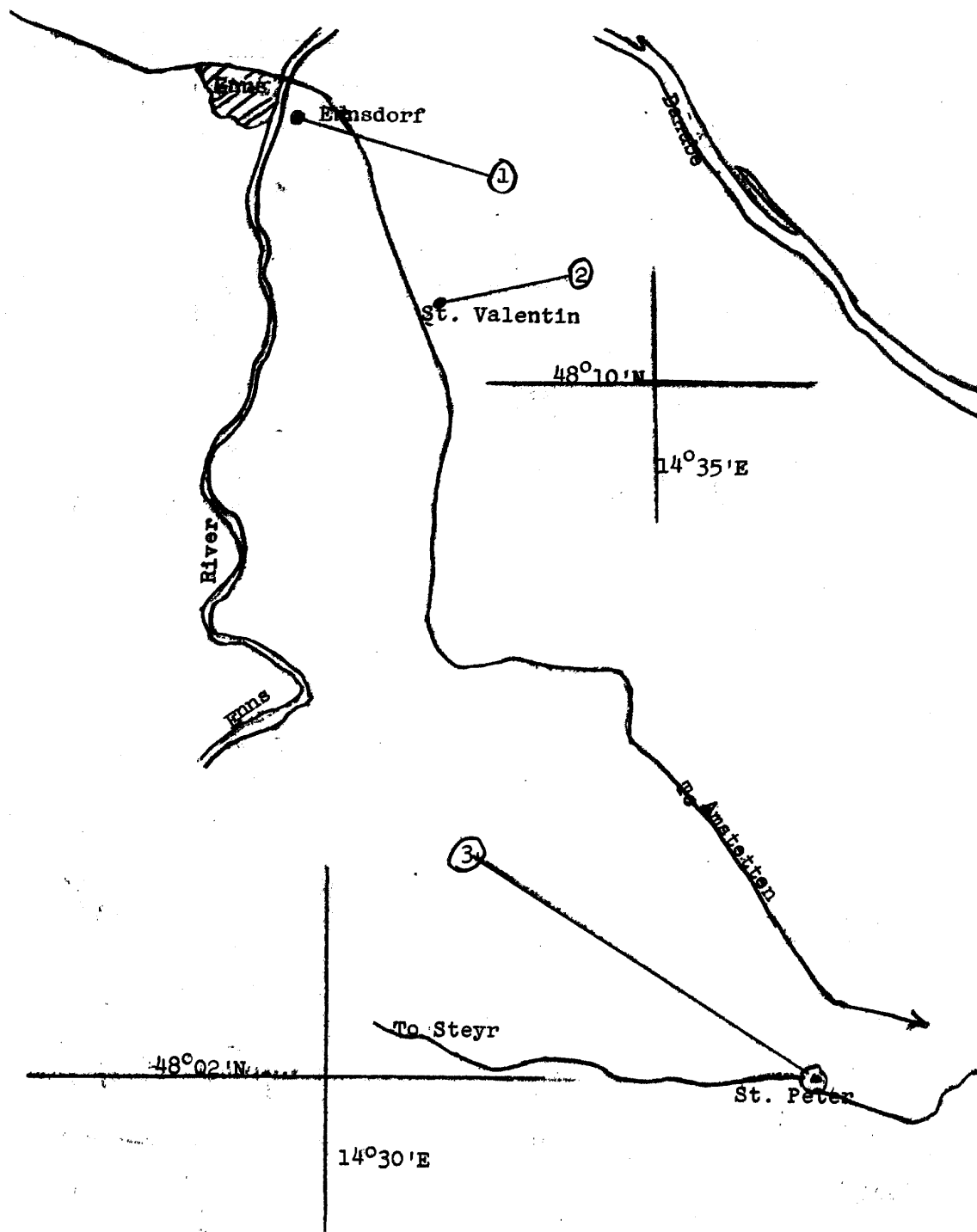
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Enclosure 2: Overlay Enns,
Pinpoint Location of VNOS Posts (Pts. 1, 2 and 3) at
Ennsdorf, St. Valentin, and St. Peter in Soviet Zone of
Austria



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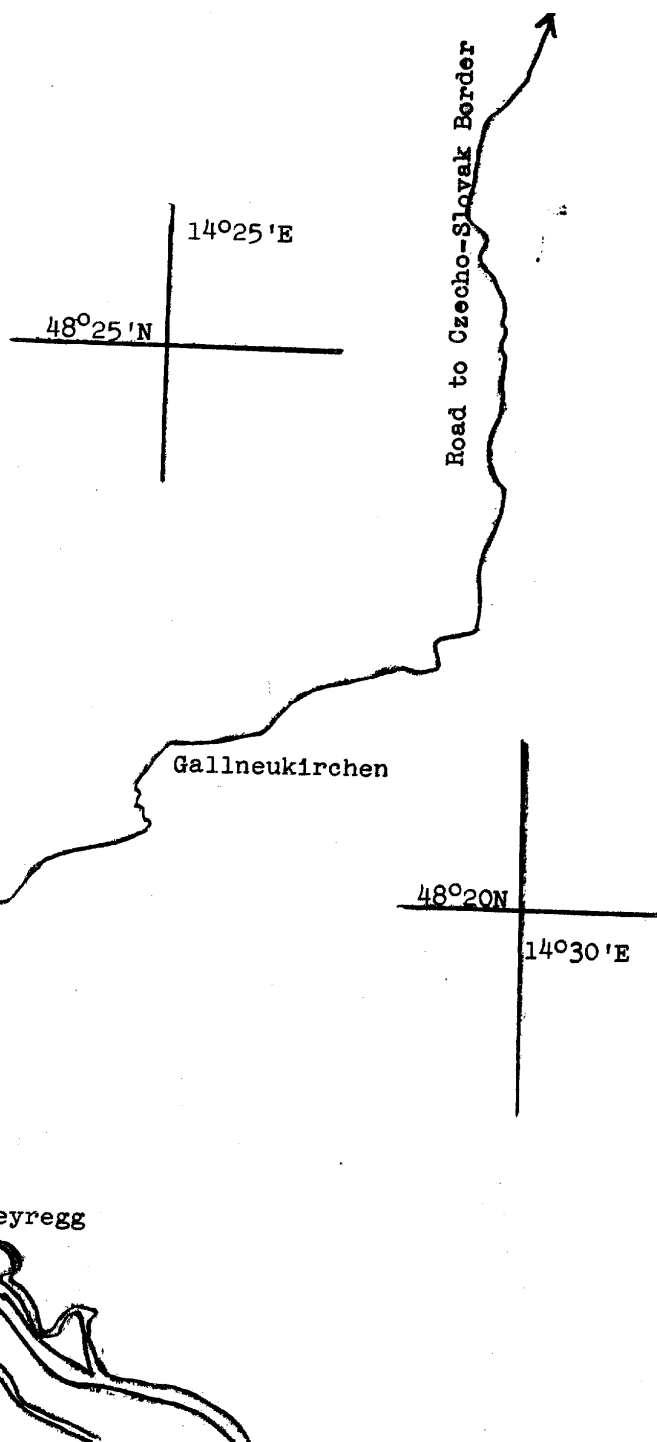
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Enclosure 3: Overlay on [redacted] Zwettl,
Pinpoint Location of VNOS Post (Pt. 1) in Steyregg, Soviet
Zone of Austria



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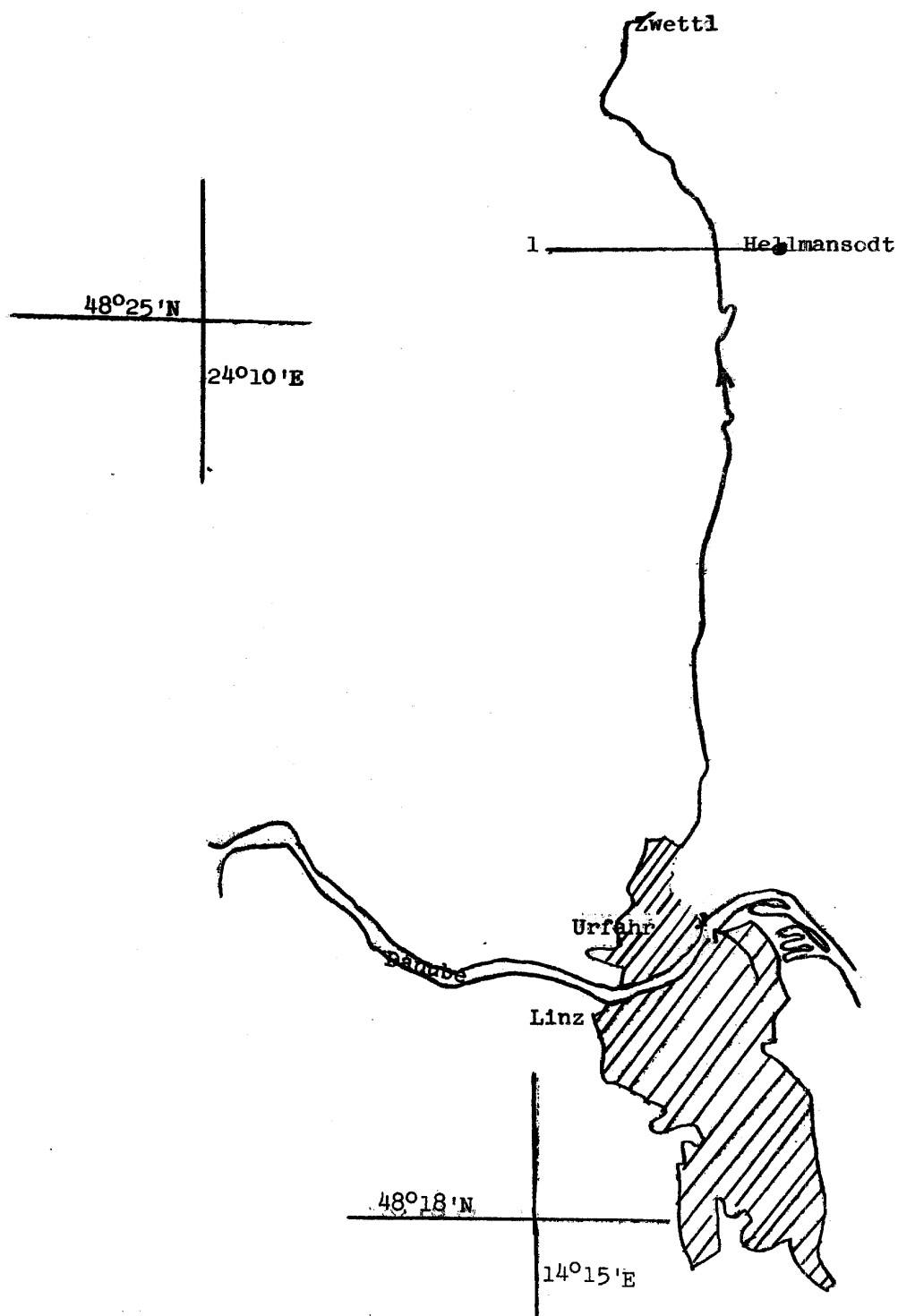
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Enclosure 4: Overlay on [redacted] Linz,
Pinpoint Location of VNOS Post (Pt. 1), at Hellmansodt,
Soviet Zone of Austria

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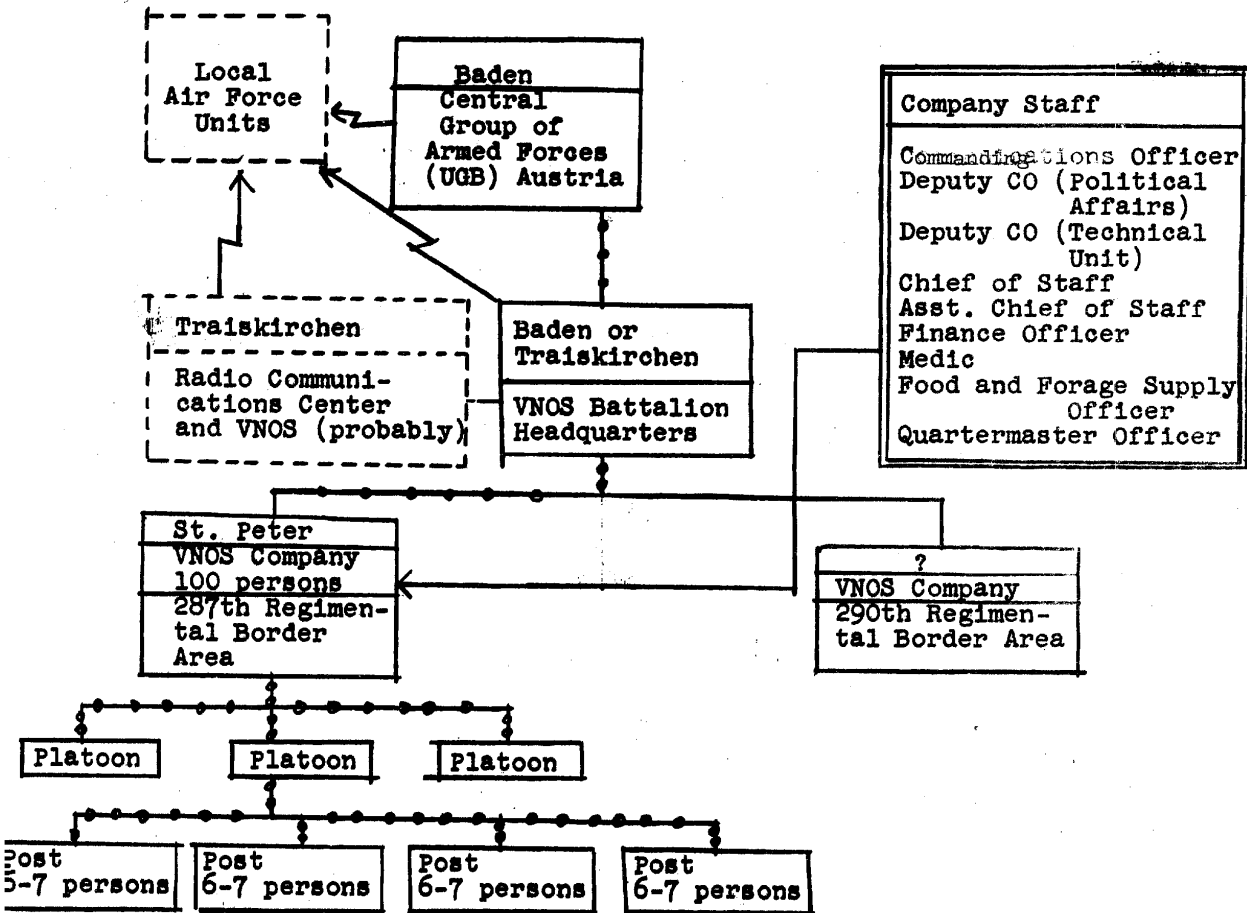
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Enclosure 5: Channels of Command, Organization and Communication System of VNOS

Communication

Radio ———→

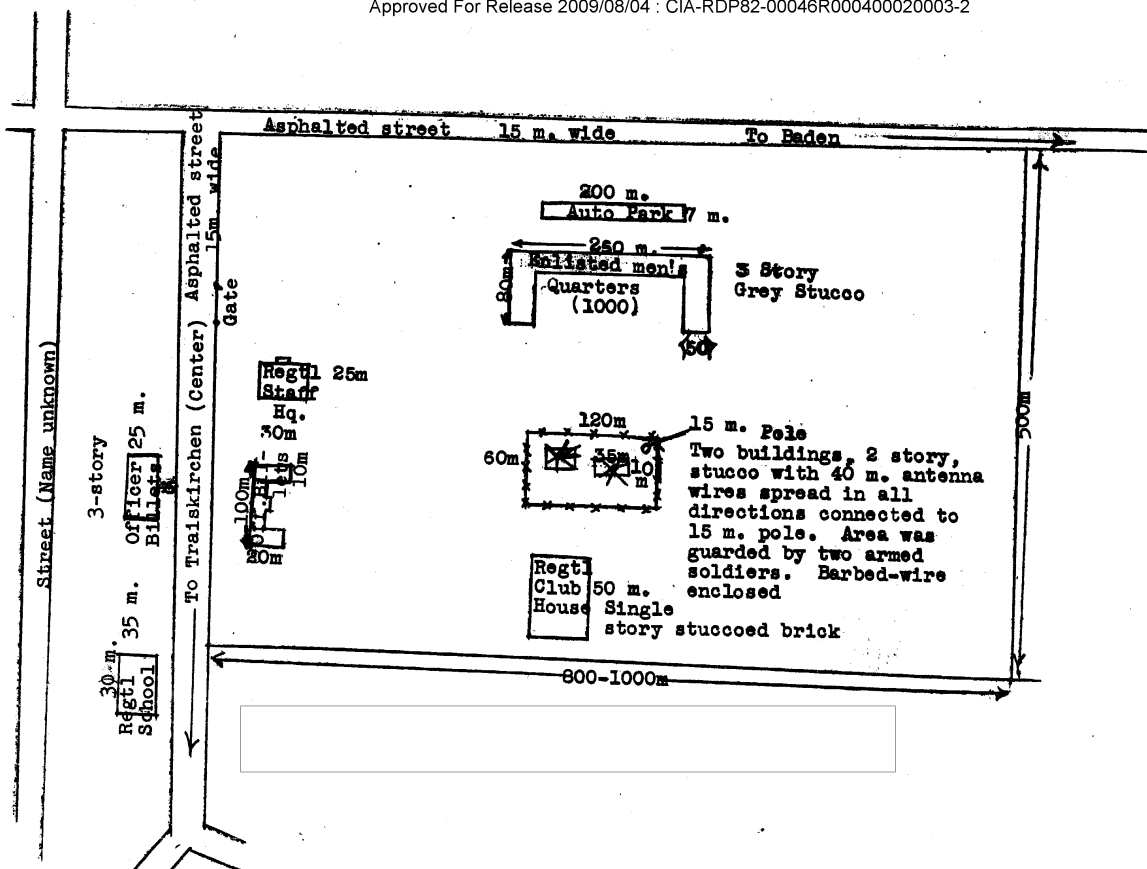
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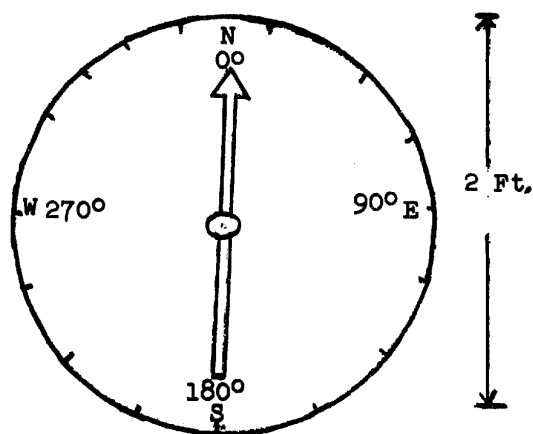
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Enclosure 7: Sketch of Aircraft Flight Direction Indicator (Manual)
Used by VNOS Posts in Austria, Last Time Observed November 1953.

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Made of Sheet Metal

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